



May, 2013
Issue 1: Volume 5

Welcome to the Montana Primary Care Office (MT-PCO) News

Montana Retention Project Update

The MT PCO and the MT South Central AHEC have been working together to provide scholarships for MT's ARRA funded National Health Service Corps providers to attend continuing Medical Education (CME) courses. This project is intended to increase the clinical knowledge of clinicians, boost morale and job satisfaction. Since January, the project has funded CME opportunities for 44 ARRA funded National Health Service Corps clinicians.

Below are a few examples of provider trainings that were sponsored through this project.

Brent Goldthorpe, D.M.D., practices dentistry in Deer Lodge. Dr. Goldthorpe commented on the dental training he attended. "We were able to practice placement of the implants on artificial mandibles under the observation of an experienced practitioner. This will provide direct and immediate benefit to those I'm able to work with, most notably the elderly denture wearers that I care for."

Serena Brewer, D.O. a physician with the Butte CHC spoke about her training experience. "After attending the conference, I am also hopeful that our clinic can begin to implement wellness plans for employees and patients alike. We were able to learn from a rather larger medical group of the Midwest and what they have done in these areas. Although we have nowhere near the financial resources of this large group, they did provide some great ideas for community involvement regarding healthy living. We are hopeful to have a presence at the community farmers market this summer as a way to reach out to our patients as well as other community members regarding health. Thank you for enabling me to attend!"

Alison Cole a Mental Health Clinician with Western Montana Mental Health attended the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Conference. She wrote, "I learned how specific neurology impacts our abilities to control emotion and feel safe after trauma. I learned interactive exercises that I can (and have already used) with my clients. My clients will benefit from the

conference as they will be provided with a clinician who is better trained in the area of trauma and be able to assist them to overcome fears, triggers and emotions related to the past. The company will benefit as I will be presenting some of the material learned to all the other therapists within the organization. I will show them the specific exercises learned and teach them how they can effectively use them during session. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. This was a very energizing and rejuvenating experience...much needed in this field."

Save The Date: Corps Community Day 2013!
Thursday, October 10, 2013

Seeking an opportunity to partner with organizations in your community, inspire young health care providers, or host an engaging event? Team up with the National Health Service Corps as we celebrate our third annual Corps Community Day!

Corps Community Day will take place on Thursday, October 10, 2013, during the American Medical Student Association's (AMSA) National Primary Care Week (October 7-11, 2013). Corps Community Day celebrates the important work of the Corps to increase access to primary care where it is needed most.

Last year, more than 145 events and activities took place on Corps Community Day, including a [national event with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#)

[Secretary Kathleen Sebelius](#) hosted at Unity Health Care in Washington, DC. To watch highlights from the Secretary's event, click here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Heud_Rnjxg. With your help, in 2013, the NHSC hopes to exceed their record!

Check out the [Celebrating healthier patients and stronger communities](#) blog post by Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, [Health care law increases access to primary care through National Health Service Corps](#) national press release and [Growth of the NHSC](#) overview.

Updates, photos and videos from local Corps Community Day events are being shared on the Corps' [Flickr](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

For regular updates and if you're interested in planning an event this year, email CorpsCommunityDay@hrsa.gov to find out how you can get involved for Corps Community Day 2013!

NHSC Clinician Retention:

Short- and Long-Term Retention Rates

A 2012 retention assessment survey found that 82 percent of NHSC clinicians who completed their service commitment in the Corps continued to practice in underserved communities in the short-term, defined as up to one year after their service completion. Fifty-five percent of National Health Service Corps clinicians continue to practice in

underserved areas 10 years after completing their service commitment. Short-term retention increased by 28 percent when compared to the 2000 survey's rate of 64 percent. The 2012 long-term retention (10 years after service completion) of NHSC clinicians in underserved areas is 55 percent, a 6 percent increase when compared to the 2000 rate of 52 percent. Long-term retention rates are higher for those who serve in rural as opposed to urban communities.

Retention: Primary Medical Care Providers

Physicians who completed their NHSC commitment more than 10 years ago had the highest retention rates as compared with physician assistants (PAs), nurse practitioners (NPs), and certified nurse midwives (CNMs). Ten years after their service commitment was completed, the retention rate for physicians was 60 percent. For nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives, it was 59 percent; and for physician assistants it was 42 percent. **Retention:**

Primary Oral Health Care

Providers 48.1 percent of Corps members in the oral health discipline (dentists and registered dental hygienists) still practice in health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) 10 years after their service commitment was completed.

Retention: Primary Mental and Behavioral Health Care Providers

Clinicians such as health service psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, psychiatric nurse specialists, marriage and family therapists, and licensed professional counselors are eligible to participate in the NHSC and are part of the

primary mental and behavioral health care disciplines. Four years after completing their NHSC service commitment, 61.1 percent of these clinicians still practice in HPSAs.

Become an NHSC Ambassador

NHSC Ambassadors are dedicated volunteers who help educate and inform prospective Corps members. They give their time and talents to spread the word about the opportunities available through the NHSC and serve as additional local resources for current NHSC members. NHSC Ambassadors inspire and motivate students and providers to provide primary health care in communities with limited access to care.

The NHSC provides program updates to Ambassadors regularly and has developed tools to help Ambassadors in their efforts. Ambassadors agree to:

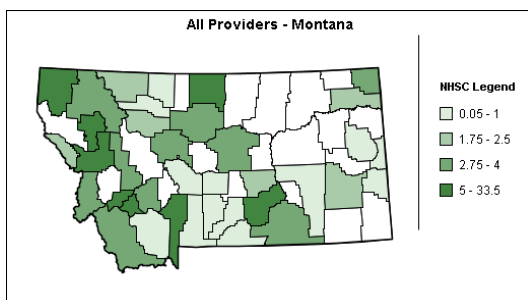
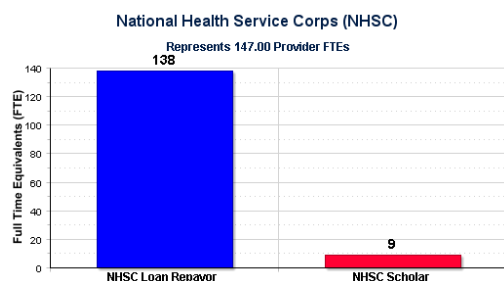
- Participate in at least six activities per fiscal year (October 1st – September 30th) to ensure the NHSC provides prospective and new NHSC members active points of contacts that can help them.
- Keep contact information updated in the [Ambassador Portal](#); so the NHSC can capture and report on the incredible work being done by NHSC Ambassadors.
- Place an NHSC poster at their location so people know you are a resource for NHSC information. The poster can be requested through

the [Ambassador Portal](#). More information about NHSC ambassadors please visit the following NHSC link.

<http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/ambassadors/index.html>

Current NHSC Stats for Montana

As of April 30, 2013 Montana had 366 approved NHSC sites across the state with 147 loan repayers and scholars working in Montana.



NHSC Vacancies Must Now Be Updated Every 90 Days

All announcements for job openings, either existing or new, must now be managed through the NHSC Customer Service Portal. Existing positions will remain open in the Portal for 90 days. After 90 days, positions will automatically expire unless you extend the deadline through the Portal.

If you have a position that has not been filled and you would like to keep it open, you will need to:

1. Visit the NHSC Website at www.nhsc.hrsa.gov and click the link to the [Customer Service Portal](#) at the bottom right hand side of the page
2. Select an active site
3. Click on the "Manage Current Job Openings" option in the Self Service section.

Please note that you can either set a maximum expiration date (no more than 90 days) for a position or choose another expiration date prior to the 90 day maximum. The site administrator will receive an e-mail notification from the NHSC both two weeks and two days before any open position expires reminding them the announcement will be removed from the Portal if action is not taken.

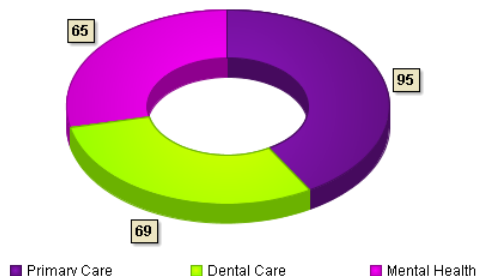
For technical assistance: Call **1-800-221-9393**

Shortage Designations

The PCO is currently working on the 2010 HPSA update designations and will have them completed by September 30, 2013. 2009 HPSA application updates have been completed by the Montana Primary Care Office.

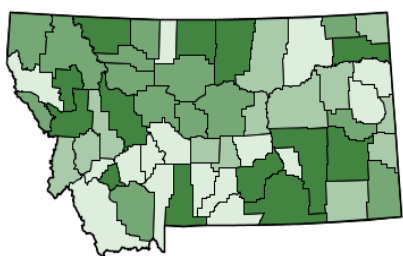
Current Number of Shortage Designations in MT April, 2013

Health Professional Shortage Areas by Discipline



Map of the Number of Shortage Designations by County in MT April, 2013

All HPSA Disciplines - Montana



HPSA Legend

- 1 - 2
- 3
- 4 - 6
- 7 - 15

Montana J-1 Visa Waiver Guidelines Update of Status

Montana has 26 of the 30 J-1 slots available for qualified applicants through September 30, 2013. J-1 slots are for eligible foreign medical school graduates.

This newsletter is intended to communicate information to CHCs, RHCs, NHSC sites and other partners regarding shortage designation activities, NHSC, and J-1 activities and other matters of interest to partners. We welcome your input and recommendations regarding content.

PCO Contact Information

As always, if you need additional information about the NHSC, shortage designations, or how to apply for a J-1 slot, contact the Primary Care Office staff at the address or telephone numbers listed below:



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